

Fresno, California

February 1, 2007

The Council reconvened in joint session with the Fresno County Board of Supervisors at the hour of 9:11 a.m. at the New Exhibit Hall, 848 "M" Street, Room 2015 - 2018, Fresno, California, on the day above written. Present were Councilmembers Calhoun, Dages, Duncan, Sterling, Westerlund, Xiong; Council President Perea; Mayor Autry; Al Smith, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce; Fresno County Supervisors Anderson, Case, Larson, Perea, and Waterston. Also present were City Manager Souza, City Attorney Sanchez, City Clerk Klisch, and Deputy City Clerk Leyva.

Mr. Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance, and opened the meeting by expressing interest in increasing public safety and consolidation of services. He stated there were 4 key areas to be discussed; 1. joint governance; 2. joint dispatcher center; 3. joint prisoner processing; and 4. City/County property and evidence storage. Mayor Autry commended the Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Smith for his leadership on the project and moving this forward. He advised the members to keep an open mind beyond the dispatch center and stated this was the most progressive group in sharing ideas. Supervisor Waterston expressed excitement at the idea of joining forces to implement this project, and Council President Perea responded that 2,000 hours went into the project and although ideas were different at times, at the end of the day, public safety would be the key factor involved. Mr. Smith advised all four committees came together as one voice.

Victoria Salisch, attorney with Lang, Richert & Patch, chair of the Joint Governance Task Force committee, gave a brief overview which encompassed the committee members; briefly discussed the report and the core principle decisions based on the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) model and explained the committee recommendation to adopt the plan and create the JPA as soon as possible.

Cindy Merzon, owner of Merzon Consulting, co-chair of the Joint Dispatch Center Task Force committee, listed the committee members; advised the goal of the committee was to enhance public safety and response times, while reducing costs. She advised the recommendation was to have two dispatch centers because the equipment was not compatible to Emergency Management Services (EMS); stated the goals were to integrate those who share a common system; clarified the committee recommendation was to set a policy to evaluate the equipment prior to purchasing a dispatch system; stated there has been a big improvement of voice communication; and advised the committee recommended the approval of all 4 task force recommendations.

Sam Geil, Geil Enterprises, chair of the Joint Prisoner Processing Task Force committee, reviewed the list of committee members; advised the recommendations were based on the following three policies: 1. Technology would dictate the process, then policies; 2. the manual process will be kept in place until the new technology is implemented, and will be used as the back-up method in case of technology failure in the future. 3. The joint prisoner processing center will involve multiple agencies, and concluded.

Ruth Evans, chair of the City/County Property and Evidence Storage Task Force committee, reviewed the list of committee members; stated the Fresno County Sheriff's Office has approximately 500,000 pieces of property and evidence in storage and gave a brief overview of the report. She advised the committee recommendation was for the City and County to negotiate a contract for the Fresno Police Department to handle all property and evidence for the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, adding that money and DNA would not be included.

Councilmember Duncan advised he was impressed with the committees and all of the components fit well with the model and under the JPA; expressed concern with ensuring accountability and long-term success of the project; advised overall he was pleased; and added if the members were not in consensus, the rest of the discussion would be difficult. A motion to approve was acted upon after brief discussion.

Supervisor Perea concurred with Councilmember Duncan regarding the discussion being difficult if all were not in agreement. He commended Ms. Salisch, Judge Hill, and Fresno County Sheriff Mims for their involvement in the project; advised public safety was the bottom line; advised he and Councilmember Duncan served on the committee and that it will take time to create a joint governance structure.

Mr. Smith stated Mayor Autry had to leave due to other obligations, and Mayor Autry thanked everyone for their efforts; stated he was 100% supportive of this project and future government collaboration, commended Mr. Smith and the Chamber of Commerce for a job well done, and left the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Supervisor Case thanked the director of EMS and stressed the real goal was public safety. She advised she was in support of all recommendations.

Councilmember Westerlund expressed his support for the project and concerns regarding the effectiveness of creating a new JPA; stressed concerns with cost savings and whether the proposal was better than the existing systems. Councilmember Dages stated he was impressed with Chairs Merzon, Evans, Geil, and Salisch; advised his concern pertained to what was best for the taxpayers; concurred with Supervisor Case that public safety at the highest level was an accurate statement and best defined what to strive for; and expressed concern for fair treatment of employees.

Supervisor Larson stated the JPA was a fantastic idea; expressed concern regarding responsibility within the County to collaborate and join forces; expressed concern regarding rural areas, and advised he was in support of JPA. Supervisor Anderson expressed appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce and extended gratitude for the private sector and public sector collaboration. She advised of the need to form the JPA and the functions under it; expressed concern for time required to do so; advised evidence and dispatch needed to be under the JPA; and commended Mr. Smith and the Chamber of Commerce for their efforts.

Councilmember Sterling thanked the Chamber of Commerce and those involved in the project; commended Mr. Geil and the committee members for excellent work; and recommended the acceptance of the JPA. A motion to approve was acted upon after brief discussion.

Upon call, no one wished to be heard and Supervisor Waterston closed public testimony.

Supervisor Waterston expressed the need to hear from smaller cities, with Coalinga Police Chief Jerry Galvan responding. Chief Galvan noted his embarrassment for non-participation; advised Coalinga had not had a Fire Chief for three years; advised cell phone 9-1-1 calls are directed to CHP, and added possibilities for joint processing are commendable. Chief Dyer thanked the Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Smith; advised this had been a painless process; and stressed the Fresno Police Department was committed to making it work. Sheriff Mims advised she supported the formation of the JPA, although she would be giving up most of the authority in the process. She commended the committee members for their efforts.

On motion of Councilmember Duncan, seconded by Council President Perea, duly carried, RESOLVED, the creation of the Fresno County Joint Powers Authority for public safety based upon the recommendation of the Governance Task Force hereby approved and staff to return by June 1, 2007, with documents necessary to establish this body, by the following vote:

Ayes :	Calhoun, Dages, Duncan, Sterling, Westerlund, Xiong, Perea
Noes :	None
Absent :	None

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors took similar action.

Mr. Smith advised the time had come to discuss the acceptance of the recommendations of the Joint Dispatch Center Task Force. Councilmember Calhoun spoke in opposition to the proposal. Discussion ensued with Supervisor Anderson, Supervisor Perea, and Supervisor Case responding. Councilmember Westerlund questioned whether Police and Sheriff's Departments could communicate with one another, with Chief Dyer responding. Councilmember Westerlund advised of the need to bridge the gap, move forward, and let the JPA do the job. Discussion ensued with Council President Perea stressing the need to accept the recommendations of the task force so the JPA could make their own decisions, and continued with Councilmember Xiong, Supervisor Perea, Councilmember Duncan, Supervisor Larson, Supervisor Case, and Supervisor Anderson responding. Councilmember Westerlund advised of the need to move the recommendations forward.

On motion of Council President Perea, seconded by Councilmember Duncan, duly carried, RESOLVED, the recommendations of the Joint Dispatch Center Task Force hereby accepted, by the following vote:

Ayes : Dages, Duncan, Sterling, Westerlund, Perea
Noes : Calhoun, Xiong
Absent : None

On motion of Council President Perea, seconded by Councilmember Duncan, duly carried, RESOLVED, the recommendations of the Joint Prisoner Processing Task Force hereby accepted, by the following vote:

Ayes : Calhoun, Dages, Duncan, Sterling, Westerlund, Xiong, Perea
Noes : None
Absent : None

On motion of Council President Perea, seconded by Councilmember Duncan, duly carried, RESOLVED, the recommendations of the City/County Property and Evidence Storage Task Force hereby accepted, by the following vote:

Ayes : Calhoun, Dages, Duncan, Sterling, Westerlund, Xiong, Perea
Noes : None
Absent : None

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors took similar action.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the Council, the hour of 11:44 a.m. having arrived and hearing no objections, Council President Perea declared the meeting adjourned.

Approved on the 6th day of February, 2007.

Henry T. Perea, Council President

Erika Leyva, Deputy City Clerk